



**Media Contact:**  
Melaney Seacat  
Pima Association of Governments  
177 N. Church Ave. Ste. 405  
Tucson, Arizona 85701  
Phone (520) 792-1093  
URL: [www.pagnet.org](http://www.pagnet.org)

**For Event Details Contact:**  
Gayle Johnson or  
Mary Ann Soto (bi-lingual)  
Phone (520) 792-1093  
E-mail: [gjohnson@pagnet.org](mailto:gjohnson@pagnet.org)  
E-mail: [msoto@pagnet.org](mailto:msoto@pagnet.org)

## MEDIA ALERT – PHOTO AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY

### U.S. EPA DESIGNATES BEST WORKPLACES FOR COMMUTERS<sup>SM</sup>

*Coalition announces 1<sup>st</sup> Annual List of the Greater Tucson Area's  
Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>*

- WHEN:** Tuesday, August 19, 2003  
9:45 a.m. – fun photo opportunities / interviews  
10:00 a.m. – unveiling event
- WHERE:** University of Arizona McKale Memorial Center  
Jim Click Hall of Champions - 1 National Championship Drive  
Free parking available in Cherry Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street garage
- WHO:** Joel D. Valdez, Sr. V.P. Business Affairs, The University of Arizona  
Steve Weathers, President, Greater Tucson Economic Council  
Robert Walkup, Mayor, City of Tucson  
George Caria, General Manager, Sun Tran  
Stephen Offutt, Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- WHAT:** A coalition of regional public service agencies focused on maintaining the quality of life and positive economic growth in the Greater Tucson Area has joined with the U.S. EPA to honor employers as Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> annual list of employers **will be unveiled** for meeting the EPA's *National Standard of Excellence* by offering comprehensive commuter benefit packages such as employer-provided transit passes, carpool and vanpool subsidies, and telework programs.
- WHY:** **Tucson is the first city in Arizona and among the first few metropolitan areas in the United States to participate in this national program.** By meeting the *National Standard of Excellence* identified by the EPA, the Greater Tucson Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> are helping their employees and the community to improve air quality and decrease traffic congestion while meeting the challenges of continued growth in the region.

### VISUALS/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

- Special guests arrive at event via Sun Tran.
- Commuters, vanpool/carpool members, bicyclists representing Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> arrive at event.
- Alternative fuel vehicle carpools arrive at event.
- EPA representative discussing Tucson as first city in Arizona to launch program.
- PAG representative discussing Regional RideHome and Vanpool Incentive Programs.
- PAG representative discussing the Governor's Telework Partnership.
- Employer representatives from IBM, Raytheon, TEP, U of A and others discuss benefits.
- Congratulations and presentation of plaques to "Charter" Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup>.

*Date of Issuance: August 12, 2003*

### Greater Tucson Area's Best Workplaces for Commuters<sup>SM</sup> Coalition

Greater Tucson Economic Council • Pima Association of Governments • RideShare • Sun Tran •  
Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce • Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency